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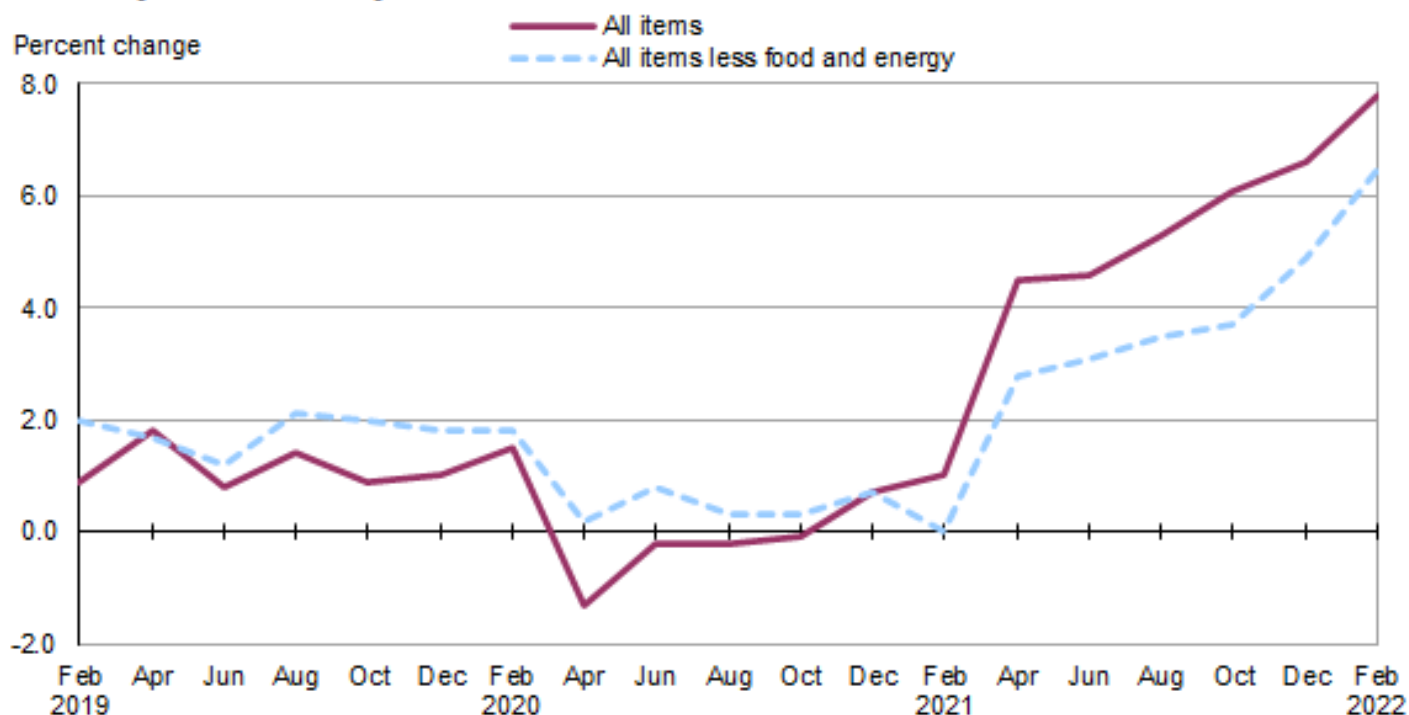
Consumer Price Index, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land – February 2022

Area prices were up 2.1 percent over the past two months, up 7.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 2.1 percent for the two months ending in February 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that this was the largest bi-monthly increase since April 2011. The food index rose 2.1 percent, while the energy index rose 2.7 percent in January and February. The all items less food and energy index rose 2.0 percent over the past two months. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for shelter and recreation. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 7.8 percent, the largest rise since August 1982. (See [chart 1](#).) The index for all items less food and energy rose 6.5 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 24.5 percent, while food prices increased 6.8 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX, February 2019–February 2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 2.1 percent for the two months ending in February. Prices for food at home (groceries) advanced 3.1 percent, partly driven by a rise in cereals and bakery products. Prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) increased 1.1 percent for the same period.

During the 12 months ending in February 2022, food prices increased 6.8 percent, the largest rise since October 2008. Prices for food at home advanced 8.4 percent, partly due to a rise in meats, poultry, fish, and eggs. Prices for food away from home rose 5.3 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index advanced 2.7 percent for the two months ending in February. The increase was almost entirely due to a 7.9-percent rise in the index for gasoline, but natural gas service also jumped 11.4 percent. Prices for electricity declined 5.0 percent for the same period.

From February 2021 to February 2022, energy prices jumped 24.5 percent, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (+44.8 percent), but all components contributed to the rise. Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 24.2 percent, while prices for electricity increased 3.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.0 percent in January and February, the largest rise since January and February 2005. Higher prices for shelter (+1.4 percent), recreation (+4.3 percent), and used cars and trucks (+2.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 6.5 percent, the largest 12-month rise since data for this series was published beginning in 1982. Components most contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (+18.4 percent), shelter (+3.2 percent) and household furnishings and operations (+14.4 percent).

The April 2022 Consumer Price Index for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land area is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Texas, Core Based Statistical Area** includes the counties of Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX, February 2022 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022
All items	245.509	-	250.563	7.8	2.1	-
All items (1967 = 100)	787.435	-	803.646			
Food and beverages	253.796	-	259.063	6.4	2.1	-
Food	254.948	-	260.328	6.8	2.1	-
Food at home	242.059	249.133	249.518	8.4	3.1	0.2
Cereals and bakery products	268.674	-	301.022	10.9	12.0	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	279.564	-	285.908	12.7	2.3	-
Dairy and related products	202.257	-	190.817	9.6	-5.7	-
Fruits and vegetables	292.947	-	303.128	2.6	3.5	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	295.534	-	303.770	9.2	2.8	-
Other food at home	209.984	-	215.947	6.6	2.8	-
Food away from home	263.656	-	266.680	5.3	1.1	-
Alcoholic beverages	226.606	-	230.034	1.4	1.5	-
Housing	240.485	-	242.619	4.8	0.9	-
Shelter	278.716	281.303	282.714	3.2	1.4	0.5
Rent of primary residence	275.028	279.905	280.079	3.7	1.8	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	261.456	264.233	263.303	2.8	0.7	-0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	261.456	264.233	263.303	2.8	0.7	-0.4
Fuels and utilities	212.970	-	208.668	5.5	-2.0	-
Household energy	188.109	170.521	183.555	6.9	-2.4	7.6
Energy services	184.856	167.335	180.083	6.4	-2.6	7.6
Electricity	187.521	166.597	178.178	3.5	-5.0	7.0
Utility (piped) gas service	154.283	154.769	171.889	24.2	11.4	11.1
Household furnishings and operations	157.893	-	158.674	14.4	0.5	-
Apparel	176.240	-	182.792	9.5	3.7	-
Transportation	207.769	-	219.206	22.7	5.5	-
Private transportation	212.969	-	223.324	23.6	4.9	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)	106.096	-	107.642	18.4	1.5	-
New vehicles(1)	185.424	-	186.593	8.9	0.6	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	336.726	-	344.913	40.0	2.4	-
Motor fuel	256.081	255.382	275.986	44.7	7.8	8.1
Gasoline (all types)	255.971	255.400	276.110	44.8	7.9	8.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	259.009	258.430	279.856	45.9	8.0	8.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	277.514	276.518	296.408	37.8	6.8	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	279.176	278.630	297.238	36.8	6.5	6.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	665.617	-	-	-	-	-
Medical care	534.973	-	539.737	0.8	0.9	-
Recreation(3)	117.911	-	123.037	10.0	4.3	-
Education and communication(3)	124.344	-	123.450	2.3	-0.7	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,295.012	-	1,297.226	2.1	0.2	-
Other goods and services	433.287	-	440.348	3.9	1.6	-
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	193.582	-	198.109	12.7	2.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages	163.819	-	167.905	16.3	2.5	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	207.518	-	215.831	16.8	4.0	-
Durables	118.596	-	119.803	15.8	1.0	-
Services	298.732	-	304.361	4.8	1.9	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter	233.233	-	238.726	10.1	2.4	-
All items less medical care	231.565	-	236.570	8.4	2.2	-
Commodities less food	166.109	-	170.198	15.7	2.5	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX, February 2022 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022
Nondurables	230.737	-	237.553	11.0	3.0	-
Nondurables less food.....	208.244	-	216.246	15.5	3.8	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	317.660	-	325.078	6.5	2.3	-
Services less medical care services.....	274.446	-	279.902	5.3	2.0	-
Energy	218.575	208.189	224.571	24.5	2.7	7.9
All items less energy	251.788	-	256.818	6.6	2.0	-
All items less food and energy	251.120	-	256.089	6.5	2.0	-

(1) Indexes on an April 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Index on a December 1993=100.

- Data not available.